

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1, 3-11, and 13 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- With regard to independent claim 1, as the closest reference of record, combination of Horikawa et al (JP 09-190672A) and Inada et al (JP 2003-162860A) discloses a recording medium drive device that allows, among a plurality of kinds of recording media having different shapes, only some of the recording media to be inserted therein, the recording medium drive device comprising: a stopper that detects a difference in shape between a first kind of the recording media and a second kind of the recording media so as to prevent the second kind of the recording media from being inserted, the stopper detecting a projection formed on an outer surface of a cartridge of the second kind recording media; wherein the recording medium drive device further comprises a recording medium loading slot through which to insert the recording media; **but fails to show** that the stopper is provided substantially in the vicinity of the center of the recording medium loading slot.
- Applicant asserts; "An object of the present invention is, in view of the foregoing disadvantages, to provide a recording medium drive device which can prevent erroneous insertion of different kind of recording medium" (Specification, p. 3).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2627

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tianjie Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-7570. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tianjie Chen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2627